

1 **In the Claims**

2 Claims 2, 5 and 12-33 are cancelled without prejudice.

3 Claim 1 is amended.

4 Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6-11 are pending and are listed below:

6 1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

7 loading one or more source processing chains to support execution of a
8 development project, the source processing chains comprising a series of filters to
9 process and render media content, wherein loading of the one or more processing
10 chains comprises:

11 identifying which source(s) will be required to support execution of
12 the next M seconds of the development project, wherein M is at least as
13 long as necessary to construct a processing chain;

14 searching one or more cache(s) to determine whether the source
15 processing chain(s) associated with the source(s) are available within the
16 one or more cache(s); and

17 retrieving the one or more processing chains from a memory
18 location denoted by an associated one or more pointers in the cache for
19 integration with the development project; and

20 determining whether each of the one or more processing chains will be
21 subsequently required during execution of this or another development project
22 and, if so, caching those filter chains which will be subsequently required.

24 2. (Canceled).

1 3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
2 determining whether processing chain(s) retrieved from the cache(s) satisfy
3 processing requirements of the development project; and
4 modifying one or more objects of one or more of the processing chain(s)
5 retrieved from the cache(s) that do not satisfy the processing requirements of the
6 development project.

7
8 4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein modifying one or
9 more objects may comprise one or more of adding processing objects to the
10 processing chain(s), removing one or more processing objects from the processing
11 chain(s), or changing one or more operating attributes of one or more processing
12 objects within the processing chain(s).

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14 5. (Canceled).

15
16 6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein determining
17 whether a processing chain will subsequently be required comprises:

18 determining whether any future calls to a source coupled to the processing
19 chain exist within this development project; and

20 determining whether any future calls to a source coupled to the processing
21 chain may be received during execution of future development projects.

22
23 7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein it is assumed that
24 each processing chain may well be required to support future execution of this or a
25 future development project.

1
2 8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein caching the
3 processing chain comprises:

4 assigning the processing chain a unique identifier; and
5 storing the unique identifier along with a pointer to a memory location
6 occupied by the processing chain in a cache.

7
8 9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, wherein the unique
9 identifier is one or more of a source file handle, a source file name, a random
10 numeric identifier uniquely assigned to the processing chain, a graphical icon, an
11 alphanumeric character, and the like.

12
13 10. (Original) A storage medium comprising a plurality of executable
14 instructions which, when executed, implement a method according to claim 1.

15
16 11. (Original) A computing system comprising:
17 a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of executable
18 instructions; and
19 an execution unit, coupled to the storage medium, to execute at least a
20 subset of the plurality of executable instructions to implement a method according
21 to claim 1.

22
23 12.-33. (Canceled).